

Every child, every family – a chance for success in Seattle schools.

The 2004 Families & Education Levy



"Only two out of three students in Seattle public schools graduate and only half of students of color graduate. With this levy, we will provide an opportunity for success in school for every child and every family."

- Mayor Greg Nickels

Mayor Nickels' Strategies for Closing the Achievement Gap

Support Early Learning

- + Double 1997 levy investment, from about \$2 million to about \$4 million
- + Create two new pre-school networks, with child care, for 400 4-year-old children each year
- + Family support, home visits, health screening
- + Help with transitioning to kindergarten

Improving school readiness is an important factor in closing the achievement gap. Participation in high-quality early childhood education programs can help low- and middle-income children prepare for school and perform better during early school years.

Focus on Family Involvement and Support

- + Help parents help their children with school performance
- + Help parents get basic services such as food, shelter and clothing

Family involvement improves student achievement, attitudes, homework and aspirations. Family support services help families overcome difficulties so they can better meet developmental needs of their children.

Invest in Out-of-School Time

- + Extra help for kids not performing at grade level
- + After-school academic programs for middle schools and high-need elementary school students
- + Child care assistance

After-school programs provide important benefits for students. Children and youth only spend about 20 percent of their waking hours in school, so there are many hours free for risky behavior or academic opportunity.

Help High-risk Youth

- + Reach and help youth at risk of dropping out
- + Case management for high-risk middle- and high-school-age youth

Youth not doing well in school and at risk for criminal behavior need focused attention. Case management increases academic success, reduces delinquent behavior and helps youth develop positive goals for the future.

Support Student Health

- + Provide school-based health centers in four middle schools and 10 high schools

Students face health problems that can create barriers to learning. School is a practical place to address student health needs.

For more information, visit www.seattle.gov/mayor/ or call 233-5118

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"We must help all children succeed."
- Mayor Greg Nickels

Mayor Nickels' Proposed Levy Package

Early Learning	\$4,040,000
Family Involvement	\$500,000
Family Support	\$2,125,000
Out-of-School Time	\$3,100,000
Student Health	\$3,300,000
<u>Support for High-Risk Youth</u>	<u>\$1,250,000</u>
Expenditure in base year*	\$14,315,000
 Average annual expenditure	 \$14,156,000
Average annual administration	\$709,000
<u>Average annual evaluation</u>	<u>\$207,000</u>
Annual Total	\$15,072,000

Total amount levied over 7 years **\$103,300,000**

*Expenditures change annually based on program phasing. Expenditure totals reflect levy (\$103.3m) plus interest earnings (\$2.5m).

Timeline and Next Steps

- April through June – City Council deliberates. The Council will announce opportunities for public comment.
- July – City Council votes on placing the Families and Education Levy on the fall ballot

Helping All Children Succeed

The Problem Today:

Many students in Seattle are not meeting standards needed to graduate. The problem is especially severe among children of color and children from low-income families. Examples:

- **55 percent** of Latino children do not pass the first grade reading assessment
- **93 percent** of African American 10th graders failed to meet the 2002-03 math WASL standard
- **56.6 percent** of Native students in the class of 2002 in Seattle Public Schools did not complete high school

How the Levy Helps Children and Families:

In addition to providing support for citywide services, Mayor Nickels' 2004 Families and Education Levy proposal calls for programs and services focused on children who are not performing at grade level or who are at risk of not graduating.

These strategies, developed by the 42-member Citizens Advisory Committee, include pre-school for low-income children, after-school programs, and case management for high-risk youth.

All levy programs will be held accountable for achieving outcomes consistent with student success and will focus on those children who are most in need.



"This levy proposal sets a bold new direction for kids and families in Seattle. Every element brings positive change for children."

- Former Mayor Norm Rice